

Cutbacks affect library service

by M.L. Hendry

Dalhousie University is at a crucial stage and further cutbacks would negatively affect library service, according to an Assistant University Librarian.

Bonita Boyd, Assistant University Librarian for Users Services said book acquisition is suffering and journal subscriptions are being cut back and cancelled.

"But we are all determined that the students will not suffer. Right now we are providing as good a service as we are accustomed to, even if we cannot keep up our journal subscriptions," said Boyd.

Dr. William Birdsall, Dalhousie's Chief Librarian, also agrees

that the Killam Memorial and Macdonald Science libraries are suffering from education cutbacks.

"The situation at Dalhousie is by no means unique" Birdsall said, "most libraries in Canada, the United States and Great Britain are feeling the pinch."

Cost of journal subscriptions increase every year, consuming more of the total book budget,

and as a result fewer books are acquired. Journal subscriptions, for example, account for 50 percent of Killam's acquisitions budget.

In the Macdonald Science Library, where 80 percent of the acquisitions budget is spent on journals, subscriptions costs are

escalating rapidly. Scientific journals published outside of Canada account for nearly 80 percent of the journals taken, and the decreasing value of the Canadian dollar has seriously affected buying power.

"The library will be looking critically at every budget item to ensure that we spend the money we have as effectively as

possible and that we give the best possible service with the funds available. I have no sense that the library is squandering money" Birdsall stated. "We'll review where we're spending funds to see if we can trim it, but we have a limited number of options. Acquisitions and staffing are the two largest items, and supplies - we need to buy at

least some paper."

Birdsall said that, compared to other Canadian university libraries, Dalhousie spends a smaller slice of its budget on staff. Because the library here is

highly centralized, library staff are very efficiently utilized. Library hours here are probably longer than anywhere else in Canada, and we should be able to maintain this level of service."

Engineering Society in good shape

The Dalhousie Engineers have secured the funds and are already well on their way to a full year of activities. A little persistence and the ole "Go for it" attitude sees the society in good financial stature. Society fees are now a direct \$10 from each student at registration time, representing approximately \$3 more than last year, and as well the engineers were granted \$200 during the summer to help pay for last year's deficit of

"There was a solid lack of responsibility" on the part of last year's executive in handling funds, a matter of not knowing what was going on, said Bernie Petolas, President of the Engineering Society.

Petolas said a lot more parties, Weepers, teams on every intramural sport, tours of breweries and a power plant and the usual "Toilet Bowl" championship (a football challenge to Acadia and Saint Mary's engineers) are planned. Future antics will no doubt be forthcoming.

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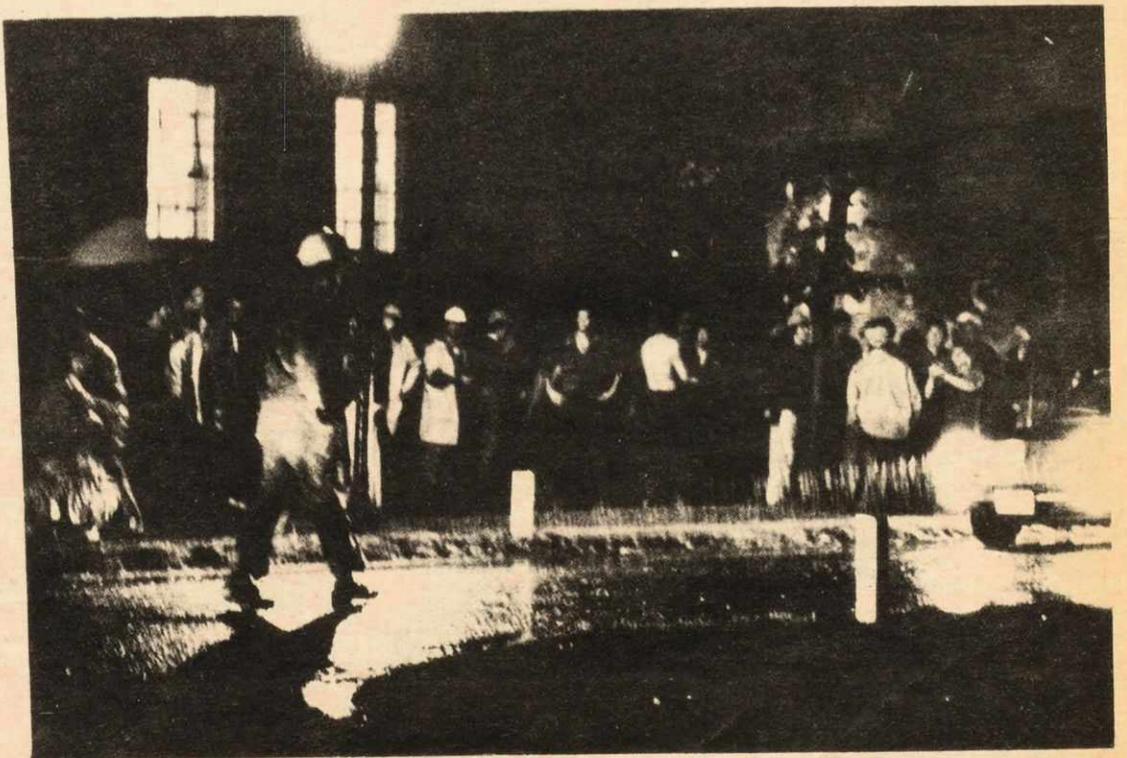
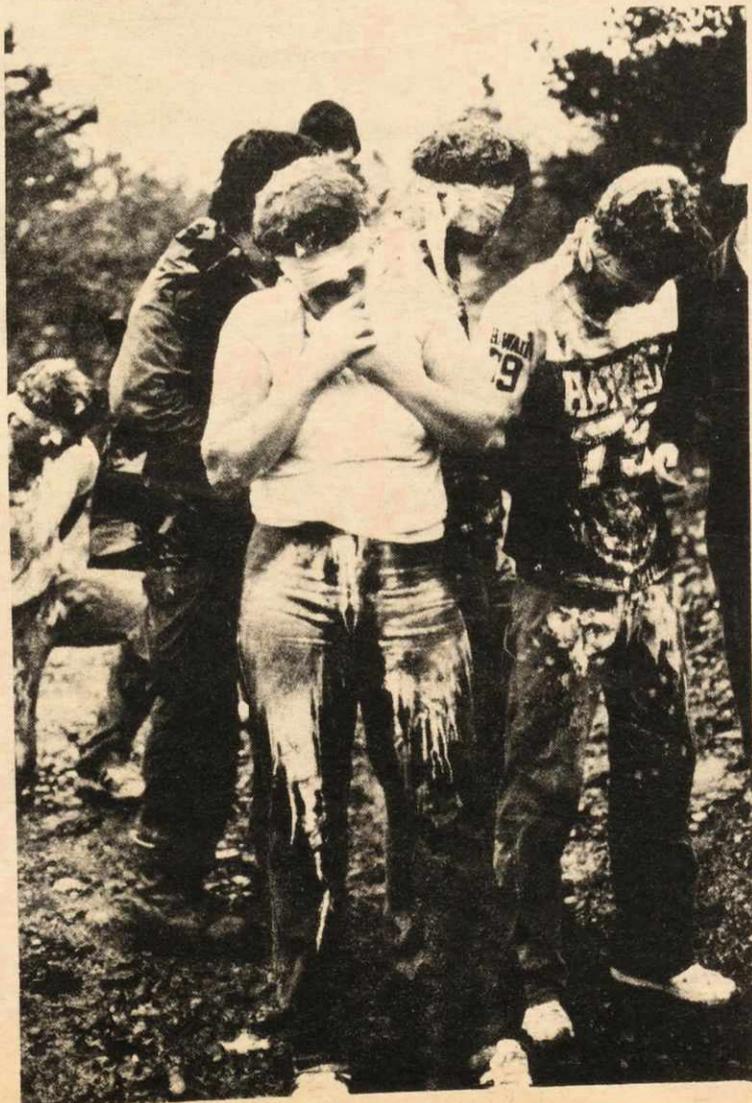
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THE ENGINEERS



Driving those women crazy? Those virile, macho, more than slightly smelly Dalhousie Engineers straight from a good initiating douseing of eggs, molasses, flour and beer are a truly attractive sight as they fight for entrance into Alexandra Hall. The annual raid on the King's College women's residence was as loud and obnoxious as ever. As one member of the black and gold hoard said, "Tradition is very important."